Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

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R 031315Z NOV 76 FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6272 INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS AMCONSUL DHAHRAN USDOC WASHDC

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BRUSSELS FOR MARITIME ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EWWT, SA

SUBJECT: SHAKE-UP IN ADMINISTRATION OF JIDDA SEAPORT

- 1. FAIZ BADR, DIRECTOR OF THE SAUDI SEAPORTS ORGANIZATION,' HAS TAKEN EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER THE ADMINISTRATION OF JIDDA SEAPORT AND HAS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CAUSED A COMPLETE SHAKE-UP IN PORT AUTHORITY POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY.
- 2. THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS HAVE OCCURRED WITHIN THE LAST WEEK:
- A. BADR FIRED MR. BRUCE GARVEY, DIRECTOR, GREY-MACKENZIE, A BRITISH FIRM WITH THE CONTRACT FOR OFFLOADING CARGO AT THE PORT;
- B. MOHIUDDIN KHAYYAL, DIRECTOR OF JIDDA SEAPORT, WAS APPOINTED ACTING DEPUTY MINISTER OR COMMUNICATIONS FOR TRANSPORT;
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- C. FUAD MAQTAR, AN OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF JIDDA SEAPORT; AND
- D. CHIEF PORT ADVISORS ADMIRAL LODI AND MOHAMED MAROOF STATED THAT THEY ARE RESIGNING.
- 3. COMMENTS: THESE CHANGES CONSOLIDATE BADR'S POWER OVER THE SEAPORT ADMINISTRATION, BUT IN NO WAY IMPLY THAT ADMINISTRATION WILL IMPROVE. GARVEY WAS RESPECTED AS AN INTERNATIONAL EXPERT IN PORT LOGISTICS, ALTHOUGH HE WAS NIVER GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXERCISE HIS FUNCTION AT JIDDA PORT TO ANY SIGNIFICANT DEGREE. MAROOF AND LODI ARE FIXTURES AT JIDDA PORT WHO PROBABLY KNEW THE INS AND OUTS OF ITS DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS BETTER THAN ANYONE. THEY TOO WERE NEVER ALLOWED TO TRANSLATE THEIR IDEAS INTO REALITY. KHAYYAL KNEW LITTLE ABOUT PORT OPERATIONS, RARELY SET FOOT INTO THE PORT AREA, AND HIS ABSENCE WILL HARDLY BE NOTICED. FUAD MAQTAR, THE NEW PORT DIRECTOR, BRINGS A NEW FACE BUT NO PORT EXPERIENCE.

IN ESSENCE, THESE CHANGES PUT PORT MANAGEMENT EVEN MORE INTO THE HANDS OF NON-PORT ORIENTED INDIVIDUALS. RATHER THAN DECENTRALIZING AUTHORITY AND ALLOWING MEN WITH OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE TO MAKE DECISIONS, BADR NOW HOLDS ALL THE CARDS. LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SHIPPERS BOTH FEEL THESE CHANGES WILL NOT BENEFIT JIDDA PORT AS LONG AS BADR CONTINUES TO GOVERN BY FIAT. HORAN

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